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## NEWS AND NOTES

Professor J. C. Arthur and Dr. F. D. Fromme, of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, spent the month of January at the Garden in continuation of their studies of the Uredineae for *North American Flora*.

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Mr. C. A. Schwarze spent most of January and February at the Garden examining and making illustrations from herbarium material relating to the parasitic fungi of New Jersey.

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According to J. H. Faull and G. H. Graham, the chestnut canker has been found at Agassiz, British Columbia, on trees of Oriental, European, and American origin.

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Dr. Charles E. Bessey, Professor of Botany at the University of Nebraska for over thirty years, died at Lincoln on February 25. He was born at Milton, Ohio, May 21, 1845.

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Dr. A. G. Johnson, of the University of Wisconsin, recently visited the Garden to examine the collections of *Helminthosporium* in the mycological herbarium.

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The chestnut canker was collected twice in Nebraska during last September and October by R. G. Pierce. The chestnut is not native in Nebraska, but it is beginning to be planted in some parts of the state and the disease was introduced with Paragon nursery stock from Pennsylvania.

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Miss Caroline Rumbold, in *Phytopathology* for February, gives a brief account of successful experiments in infecting chestnut

burrs and nuts with the chestnut canker. Nuts infected with the canker become soft and crumbly and are extremely bitter to the taste. There is no doubt that the disease may very easily be spread by means of these infected fruits.

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Dr. George G. Hedcock, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, spent the first two weeks in February at the Garden examining specimens of various tree-destroying fungi. He brought a very large and valuable collection with him for comparison and was able to spare portions of many of the specimens for the Garden herbarium.

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“Southern Polypores,” by W. A. Murrill, appeared January 30, 1915. New combinations used in this work are: *Inonotus ludovicianus* (Pat.) Murrill, *Elvingiella fasciata* (Sw.) Murrill, and *Spongipellis fragilis* (Fries) Murrill. “American Boletes” and “Northern Polypores,” by the same author, were issued December 8, 1914. In the latter work, two new genera, *Fulvifomes* and *Elvingiella*, were published, with several new combinations.

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In the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* for September and November, 1914, Professor E. A. Burt continues his treatment of the Thelephoraceae of North America, devoting one paper to *Craterellus* and one to *Craterellus borealis* and *Cyphella*. His key to *Craterellus* includes 17 species, 5 of which are described as new and 1 newly combined. Twenty-one species are included under the genus *Cyphella*, 5 of which are new. Both papers are well illustrated.

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A bulletin on practical tree surgery, by J. F. Collins, recently published by the Division of Forest Pathology at Washington, contains very careful directions for treating the trunks of trees that have suffered from wounds or diseases. The author states that the science of tree surgery has suffered from dishonest and uneducated men engaged in this work, and he predicts that very

superior methods will be discovered and put into practice in the near future. The most valuable paragraph in the bulletin reads as follows: "Finally, tree owners are urged to remember at all times the axiom: The need of tree surgery 15 or 20 years hence may be very largely obviated by promptly attending to the fresh injuries of to-day."

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Some observations on abortive sporophores of wood-destroying fungi were reported by James R. Weir in *Phytopathology* for February, 1915. He comes to the conclusion that the peculiar abnormal growths on birch trunks are without doubt sterile sporophores of *Pyropolyphorus igniarius*. He has found similar abortive sporophores of this species on alder trunks in Montana, and sterile ram's-horn-like sporophores of *Porodaedalea Pini* on the western white pine. An interesting statement made by Mr. Weir in this article is to the effect that the mycelium of one species attacking a tree trunk is always antagonistic to that of another species on the same trunk, and, since the mycelium of typical *Pyropolyphorus igniarius* is not antagonistic to that of its principal variety, *P. igniarius nigricans*, the latter cannot be looked upon as a distinct species.

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#### CHARLES HORTON PECK RETIRES

The following minute has been adopted by the regents of the University of the State of New York on the retirement of Dr. Charles H. Peck from the position of state botanist:

The service rendered to the state by Charles Horton Peck, D.Sc., who has just retired from his position as state botanist, has been extraordinary in its fidelity, assiduity and productiveness. Dr. Peck entered the staff of the State Museum as botanist in 1867, and from that date to the present, his service has been continuous—a period of 48 years. In 1883 the position of state botanist was created and he has been its only incumbent.

The nearly half century of his scientific activity became an epoch in the science of botany in America, by virtue of the extensive contributions which he made, not alone to the knowledge of the flora of New York but specially through his almost pioneer investigations among the fungi. His researches in this field vastly increased the sum of knowledge and established an orderly and rational classification so that his published papers, issued in the reports of the state museum, are indispensable to any student of these forms of life.

The number of species discovered and described by him are counted by thousands and the additions made through his efforts to the state herbarium are so extensive that this collection of plants is to-day among the largest on the continent and of great scientific worth. By common consent of his colleagues Dr. Peck has long been recognized as the ultimate authority in mycology—the field of his special labors.

In view of these services whose value to the state can not be briefly estimated or readily expressed, the regents take this occasion to record, with their regret that the exactions of time have impelled him to retire from the service of the university and the state, their congratulations to Dr. Peck upon a life well rounded and a work well done, with their assurance of continued interest and deep regard for his welfare during the years that may remain.